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Attorneys for [PROPOSED] Plaintiff-Intervenor  
YUHA AVIATAM OF SAN MANUEL NATION,  
a federally recognized Indian tribe, also federally  
recognized as SAN MANUEL BAND OF MISSION INDIANS

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
**FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**  
**EASTERN DIVISION – RIVERSIDE**

BLUETRITON BRANDS, INC.,

Plaintiff,

v.

UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE,

RANDY MOORE, in his official capacity  
as Chief of the U.S. Forest Service,

CHRISTOPHER FRENCH, in his official  
capacity as Deputy Chief for the National  
Forest System of the U.S. Forest Service,

Case No.: 2:24-cv-09720-JGB-DTB

**DECLARATION OF KEITH  
ALEXANDER IN SUPPORT OF  
YUHA AVIATAM OF SAN  
MANUEL NATION'S MOTION  
TO INTERVENE AND MOTION  
FOR PRELIMINARY  
INJUNCTION**

Hearing Date: January 13, 2025

Hearing Time: 9:00 AM

Courtroom: 1

Judge: Hon. Jesus G. Bernal

Action Filed: August 6, 2024

1 JENNIFER EBERLEIN, in her official  
2 capacity as Regional Forester for the  
3 Pacific Southwest Region of the  
4 U.S. Forest Service,

5 DANELLE HARRISON, in her official  
6 capacity as Forest Supervisor of the San  
7 Bernardino National Forest of the  
8 U.S. Forest Service,

9 MICHAEL NOBLES, in his official  
10 capacity as Front Country District Ranger  
11 of the U.S. Forest Service,

12 Defendants.

13 YUHA AVIATAM OF SAN MANUEL  
14 NATION, a federally recognized Indian  
15 tribe, also federally recognized as SAN  
16 MANUEL BAND OF MISSION  
17 INDIANS,

18 [PROPOSED] Plaintiff-Intervenor.

1 I, Keith Alexander, declare as follows:

2 1. I am the Fire Chief for the Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation, a  
3 federally recognized tribe also recognized as the San Manuel Band of Mission  
4 Indians (the Nation). In my capacity as Fire Chief, I oversee the operation of the  
5 San Manuel Fire Department, which provides emergency and non-emergency  
6 services both on and off the San Manuel Reservation. The facts set forth herein are  
7 based on my personal knowledge, and if called as a witness, I could and would  
8 testify competently thereto.

9 2. I have worked in the fire service for 37 years, serving my first 15 years  
10 with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire).  
11 Thereafter, I joined the Nation to serve in the San Manuel Fire Department. I have  
12 worked for the San Manuel Fire Department for the past 23 years, and as its Fire  
13 Chief since 2022.

14 3. I am keenly aware of the fire risks on and around the Nation's lands,  
15 including at its Arrowhead Springs property (Arrowhead Springs), which abuts the  
16 San Bernadino National Forest ("SBNF" or "Forest") on three sides, and which  
17 secures water from the Forest's Strawberry Canyon through infrastructure operated  
18 by a private company, BlueTriton Brands, Inc. (BlueTriton). I also have knowledge  
19 of the Nation's need for the water delivered by BlueTriton, not only for  
20 governmental and cultural purposes at Arrowhead Springs, but to combat wildfire  
21 on and around the property.

22 4. The Nation collaborates with other fire service agencies (local,  
23 regional, state, and federal) to protect people and property from fire and possesses  
24 mutual aid agreements with numerous agencies. These agencies rely upon the  
25 water delivered to Arrowhead Springs through BlueTriton's infrastructure to  
26 combat fire at and around Arrowhead Springs. If the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) is  
27 allowed to shut off all water deliveries from BlueTriton to the Nation's Arrowhead  
28 Springs property, the Nation and entire surrounding community will be in grave

1 peril. At the risk of stating what should be obvious, water is essential to  
2 extinguishing fire, and the lack of water at Arrowhead Springs will leave the San  
3 Manuel Fire Department, and other fire service agencies that also depend on that  
4 water, without an ability to combat fire at Arrowhead Springs and in surrounding  
5 communities.

6 5. The problem of not having sufficient water to combat fire is not  
7 theoretical but real, as we are seeing in connection with the ongoing efforts to  
8 extinguish the fires in and around Los Angeles. Attached hereto as **Exhibit 22** is a  
9 true and correct copy of a news article about the lack of water to combat the Pacific  
10 Palisades fire. Due to a lack of water to combat the Eaton Fire in and around  
11 Pasadena and Altadena, the San Manuel Fire Department sent a water tender and  
12 personnel to help fight that fire. Whatever the actual reason for the lack of water in  
13 these areas, the risks associated with having insufficient water to combat fire cannot  
14 be overstated, as it hampers firefighters' ability to extinguish fire that threatens not  
15 only property, but people's lives.

16 6. I am aware that the USFS has taken the position in its legal papers that  
17 there is no real fire risk at and around the Nation's Arrowhead Springs property  
18 because there has been no significant fire there for five years. In reality, the fact  
19 that there has been no fire for five years at Arrowhead Springs only means the risk  
20 of fire is greater, since vegetation has grown during this period, and that vegetation  
21 constitutes fuel for wildfire. Given this condition, combined with the lack of any  
22 measurable rainfall and current weather conditions, including the Santa Ana winds,  
23 the risk of fire on and around Arrowhead Springs is as great as ever.

24 7. Past fires at Arrowhead Springs have historically emanated from the  
25 SBNF, which has experienced well over 40 significant fires in the past 20 years.  
26 Nearby Waterman Canyon poses particularly high risks given the significant vehicle  
27 and foot traffic there (the canyon is the lifeline to the mountain community, and  
28 Arrowhead Springs is just north of Old Waterman Canyon Road). Waterman

1 Canyon was notably the source of the Old Fire (2003), which devastated the  
2 Arrowhead Springs property, and which ranks within the top 20 most destructive  
3 fires in the state's history.

4 8. Fire obviously does not respect jurisdictional boundaries, and just last  
5 year the Nation was threatened by a significant fire, the Line Fire, emanating from  
6 the SBNF. Last year's Line Fire was east of Arrowhead Springs by a few miles and  
7 came perilously close to the Nation. The threat of the Line Fire required the  
8 Nation's employees to work from home due to poor air quality, and the Nation had  
9 evacuation orders for the Tribal community in place and ready to be issued in the  
10 event firefighters were unable to get the fire under control.

11 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States that the  
12 foregoing is true and correct.

13 Executed this 11th day of January 2025, at San Manuel Reservation.

14  
15   
16 KEITH ALEXANDER